

San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

## Rain could bring mudslides to Inland Empire burn areas

*By Beatriz Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun*

Tuesday, October 25, 2016



San Bernardino County fire officials remind people who live in burn areas to take precautions as more rain has been forecast to hit the Inland Empire in the coming days.

The fast-moving storm that hit the area Sunday night and lingered into Monday afternoon dropped nearly 2 inches of rain in the Crestline area, which was burned by the [Pilot Fire](#) in early August. However, that was not enough to cause any significant flooding or mudslides,

“Surprisingly (there were) no major issues,” said Tracey Martinez, county fire spokeswoman. “There was short bursts of significant

rainfall but not for a long stretch of time.”

Meteorologists with the National Weather Service expect to see more rain hit the Inland Empire Thursday night into Friday and possibly into the weekend.

Normally, vegetation absorbs rain, but after a wildfire like the back-to-back Pilot and [Blue Cut](#) fires that devastated several square miles of vegetation in rural San Bernardino County, the charred ground can no longer easily absorb rainwater, increasing the risk of flooding and mudflows for several years.

Authorities urge anyone who lives in or near the recent burn areas to take precautions and plan ahead, according to a San Bernardino County Fire statement.

They advise following the Ready!Set!Go! Flood Preparation plan which includes signing up for emergency alerts, identifying fire stations that have sandbags available and information about how to build an effective emergency kit.

Authorities also advise downloading the new San Bernardino County Office of Emergency Services app, Ready SB, which provides residents with multiple disaster resources. Ready SB is available from the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store.

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## Officials warn of post-Pilot and Bluecut fire flood risks

**Tuesday** Posted Oct 25, 2016 at 2:48 PM  
Updated Oct 25, 2016 at 4:53 PM

By Jose Quintero  
Staff Writer

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Fire officials on Tuesday warned of elevated flood risks to the areas burned in the Pilot and Bluecut fires after the area received its first rainfall since the massive blazes erupted in August.

San Bernardino County Fire Department spokeswoman Tracey Martinez said the areas in the West Cajon Valley and the San Bernardino Mountains, including the Summit Valley, received sizable amounts of rain on Sunday and Monday, but nothing significant enough to create any immediate safety hazards due to flooding.

National Weather Service Meteorologist Brandt Maxwell told the Daily Press that the showers were part of a low-pressure trough that moved through Orange and San Bernardino counties and he anticipates the Pacific trough will continue into next week.

"I monitored the calls in the area on Sunday and Monday and there was significant downpour but it wasn't over a long period of time," Martinez said. "The rains did wash out a lot of the ash down into roadways and into flood channels.

"The National Weather Service is expecting more rain later this week and we are really encouraging residents to start sandbagging their properties and really start preparing by doing things like cleaning rain gutters and storm drains, having an

emergency kit handy and even signing up for emergency alerts.”

Sandbags do not guarantee a water-tight seal, but if properly placed could help redirect water, mud and debris away, Martinez said. Sandbags can help protect doorways, if a waterproof layer like heavy plastic or waterproof canvas is placed behind them.

“If possible, secure it to the door frame. Stack the sandbags in a pyramid formation and wrap the plastic up and over the top,” Martinez said.

Martinez said vegetation normally absorbs rain. But charred ground, where vegetation previously used to be before a wildfire, creates a loss of “soil strength” and cannot easily absorb rainwater, she said. That increases the risk of flooding and mudflows for “several years.”

Homes or properties burned by the blazes and those located downstream of burn areas are most at risk, Martinez warns.

Post-fire landslide hazards include fast-moving and highly destructive debris flows by exerting “great impulsive loads on objects in their paths,” Martinez said. That endangers human life by possibly damaging structures, stripping vegetation and blocking drainage ways.

Martinez said the San Bernardino County Office of Emergency Services app called Ready SB provides multiple resources that can assist in preparing for a disaster, including flooding.

“Residents should know that fire season is still not over,” Martinez said. “There are still possible fire dangers and at the same time we are dealing with possible flooding dangers if we do start seeing more rain in the coming weeks and months. We really encourage residents to start preparing. ... Our Ready!Set!Go! Flood Preparation brochure will show you some of the things you can do to protect your home, property and family.”

For more information visit the County Fire website at .....

*Jose Quintero may be reached at 760-955-5332 or JQuintero@DesertDispatch.com. Follow him on Twitter at @DD\_JQuintero.*

# Builder uses Workforce Board to help find employees, grow company

**Posted: Tuesday, October 25, 2016 7:10 am**

Frontier Communities goes to great lengths to recruit the best and brightest – a commitment the company's president says is key to its success as one of the Inland Empire's fastest-growing private homebuilders.

Fulfilling that objective is increasingly difficult as the demand for construction-industry workers has grown throughout the Inland Empire. The San Bernardino County Workforce Development Board has proved to be a valuable resource for Frontier Communities and thousands of other companies with hard-to-fill job openings.

“Our employees are our most important assets. They define who we are as a company, and ultimately determine how successful we will be,” says James Previti, President and Chief Executive Officer for the Rancho Cucamonga-based builder. “The programs offered through the Workforce Development Board are beneficial for companies such as ours as we grow our business.”

Recently, Frontier Communities hired Construction Superintendent Trainee Joseph Revoier, who was retrained through America's Job Centers of California (AJCC) for Class A Truck Driving. AJCC are operated by the Workforce Development Board.

“America's Job Centers helped me to get where I am today,” Revoier said. “Because of the workshops, training and people that assisted me, I was able to get back into my career.”

Mr. Revoier, after receiving this training, began work with the company on August 29.

“Knowing that there is a pipeline of qualified employees can save us time, and ultimately help us deliver the best possible product to our customers,” Previti said. “The construction field is extremely competitive, so being able to find someone like Joseph is vital for a company such as ours.”

Previti goes on to explain that the kind of training Revoier received is critical to the success of businesses.

According to research conducted for the Workforce Development Board in 2015 by Chmura Economics & Analytics, the Inland Empire has 79,965 total employees in the construction industry, including 19,890 hired in the past three years alone.

“Construction is one of our county's key industries, and helping our residents get the training they need to secure well-paying jobs in this growing sector is critical,” said San Bernardino County Second District Supervisor Janice Rutherford, whose district includes the City of Rancho Cucamonga. “That's true not just in construction, but also in manufacturing, logistics, healthcare and other industries that play an increasingly important role in our county's economy.”

About the San Bernardino County Workforce Development Board

The San Bernardino County Workforce Development Board (WDB) is comprised of private business representatives and public partners appointed by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors. The WDB strives to strengthen the skills of the County's workforce through partnerships with business, education and community-based organizations. The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors is committed to providing county resources, which generate jobs and investment in line with the Countywide Vision.

The Workforce Development Board, through the San Bernardino County Economic Development Agency and Workforce Development Department, operates the San Bernardino County's three America's Job Centers of California (AJCC). The AJCCs provide individuals with job training, placement and the tools to strengthen their skills to achieve a higher quality of life. The AJCCs also support and provide services to the County's businesses, including employee recruitment and business retention programs.

Employers and job seekers who are interested in the Workforce Development Board programs may call: (800) 451-JOBS or visit [www.csb-win.org](http://www.csb-win.org). Also follow us on: Facebook [www.facebook.com/SBWIB](http://www.facebook.com/SBWIB); Twitter [@InlandEmpireJob](https://twitter.com/InlandEmpireJob); and YouTube <http://www.youtube.com/SBCountyWIB>.



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## Nonprofits urged to apply for Give BIG

**Tuesday** Posted Oct 25, 2016 at 5:27 PM

The Community Foundation serving the counties of San Bernardino and Riverside is accepting online applications from nonprofits that would like to participate in Give BIG San Bernardino County. It is a 24-hour event to increase philanthropy in San Bernardino County through online giving on Nov. 29. The goal is to raise much-needed funds for nonprofits serving the residents of, and visitors to, San Bernardino County. To submit an application, visit



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## Lovingood, Valles to take part in forum today

**Tuesday** Posted Oct 25, 2016 at 5:27 PM

Incumbent Robert Lovingood and challenger Angela Valles will join the Daily Press for a San Bernardino County 1st District supervisor candidate forum today. It will begin at noon and will be broadcast live on the Daily Press Facebook page. Lovingood and Valles will take questions from reporter Shea Johnson. Follow the Daily Press on Facebook at

..... to watch and participate.



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## View local candidate forums on our website

**Tuesday** Posted Oct 25, 2016 at 5:25 PM

The Daily Press staff has conducted 13 Facebook Live forums with political candidates in the past three weeks. Candidates were asked a variety of questions covering several issues. If you haven't had a chance to decide who you plan to vote for in local elections on Nov. 8, we encourage you to watch our forums. They should help you make an informed decision on Election Day. Stories about each forum also can be found on our website. Go to

and look for Editor's Choice. Or simply type this url into your browser: .....



San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

## Victor Valley's Operation Desert Guardian nets 376 arrests

*By Doug Saunders, The Sun*

Tuesday, October 25, 2016

VICTORVILLE >> Over the past three months, deputies swarmed High Desert communities during a criminal suppression operation known as Operation Desert Guardian generating numerous arrests and seizures, sheriff's officials announced Tuesday.

Eight deputies and one sergeant conducted the high profile operations with the intent of reducing violent crimes in Victor Valley areas.

As a result of the operation, deputies made 376 arrests and seized several weapons, sheriff's officials said in a written statement.

The operation targeted high profile, gang-influenced areas of the High Desert and was funded by the Town of Apple Valley and the cities of Victorville, Hesperia, and Adelanto.

San Bernardino County First District Supervisor Lovingood also allocated funds to support Operation Desert Guardian for a total of 16 operations, the statement read.

"I was glad to arrange special funding for these Desert Guardian Crime Operations, which ended with 376 arrests," Lovingood said in a written statement. "So on behalf of High Desert residents, I want to thank Sheriff McMahan and his local deputies for these outstanding results and for making our neighborhoods safer."

The operation began July 8 and concluded Oct. 1.

San Bernardino County Sheriff John McMahan said the proactive operation was a success, citing public safety as a top priority for his department.

"We are very fortunate to have the support of the Board of Supervisors, which allows us to conduct these proactive enforcement operations," McMahan wrote in a statement. "Sixteen dangerous weapons were seized, making the streets a little safer for residents."

### OPERATION DESERT GUARDIAN RESULTS

#### **Victorville operations**

- Four Desert Guardian Operations
- 227 proactive contacts
- 122 arrests (36 felony, 86 misdemeanor)
- 11 gang cards documenting gang members
- 4.328 ounces of methamphetamine seized

- 6.6 ounces of marijuana seized
- 40 ecstasy pills seized
- 1 stolen vehicle recovered; suspect in custody
- 3 weapons seized
- 22 citations issued

### **Hesperia operations**

- 4 Desert Guardian Operations
- 138 proactive contacts
- 95 arrests (36 felony, 59 misdemeanor)
- 20 probationer/parolee arrests; one AB109 arrest
- 11 gang cards documenting gang members
- 34.987 ounces of methamphetamine seized
- 513lb .102 ounces of marijuana and 50 plants seized
- 1 stolen vehicle recovered
- 6 weapons seized
- 3 search warrants served
- 1 Honey Oil extraction lab and \$8,161.00 seized.
- 15 citations issued

### **Adelanto & Victor Valley operations**

- Four Desert Guardian Operations
- 206 proactive contacts
- 73 arrests (18 felony, 61 misdemeanor)
- 13 probation searches; one AB109 arrest
- 4 gang cards documenting gang members
- 3.103 ounces of marijuana seized
- 24 ounces of marijuana seized
- 1 stolen vehicle recovered
- 2 weapons seized

### **Apple Valley operations**

- Four Desert Guardian Operations
- 147 proactive contacts
- 86 arrests (22 felony, 64 misdemeanor)
- 10 probation searches
- 5 gang cards documenting gang members
- 1.754 ounces of methamphetamine seized
- 2.34 ounces of marijuana seized
- 3 grams and .5 ounces of heroin seized
- 60 Schedule 2 pills seized
- Stolen Yamaha Rhino recovered
- 4 firearms seized
- 5 weapons seized
- 7 citations issued

Totals:

- 16 Desert Guardian Operations
- 718 proactive contacts
- 376 arrests (112 felony, 652 misdemeanor)
- 37 probation/parole arrests; 6 AB109 arrests
- 31 gang cards
- 16 dangerous weapons seized
- Approximately 44.172 ounces of methamphetamine seized
- Approximately 0.105 ounces of cocaine seized
- Approximately 515 pounds of marijuana seized
- 51 citations issued

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URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20161025/victor-valleys-operation-desert-guardian-nets-376-arrests>

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## World

# California man charged with threatening to kill Muslims

OCTOBER 26, 2016



Members of the Dar-Al-Uloom, Al-Islamiyah of America mosque talk with a San Bernardino County sheriff deputy on December 4, 2015 in San Bernardino, California. — AFP pic

LOS ANGELES, Oct 26 — A California man has been charged with making terrorist threats against a Muslim centre and posting hateful messages on social media, authorities said yesterday.

Mark Lucian Feigin, 40, was arrested last week after calling the Islamic Centre of Southern California and threatening to kill Muslims, officer Liliانا Preciado of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) told AFP.

She said Feigin is suspected of having called the centre on September 19 and leaving a hate-filled message. He called again the following day, when he spoke to an employee and threatened to kill Muslims, Preciado said.

A search of his home in Agoura Hills, a city northwest of Los Angeles, turned up

five rifles, a shotgun, seven pistols and more than 113kg of ammunition, including modified high-capacity magazines, she added.

“The right to free speech is a hallmark of our society,” Commander Horace Frank, of the LAPD’s Counter Terrorism and Special Operations Bureau, told a news conference.

“But that right is not and cannot be unabated.

“Mr Feigin broke the law when he threatened the lives of the individuals at the Islamic Centre.”

Omar Ricci, chairman of the Islamic Centre, told AFP that staff became concerned after Feigin, who he said works in real estate, posted a message on the centre’s Facebook page in September and then followed up with the threatening calls.

“Generally speaking, the threats were against the religion of Islam, the Muslim community,” he said.

“And it was enough to cause fear in the person that was taking the call.”

Feigin, who was released on US\$75,000 (RM311,523) bail, could not be reached for comment and it was unclear if he had an attorney.

He is due to appear in court on November 10 and faces up to four years in prison if found guilty.

Ricci said the centre has had to boost security in the wake of the threats and rising anti-Muslim sentiment in the United States.

"There will be armed guards at the centre for the foreseeable future," he said.

### **Toxicity toward Muslims**

Hate crimes against American Muslims have soared to their highest level since the September 11, 2001 terror attacks, according to a report published earlier this year by researchers at California State University, San Bernardino.

The surge has been attributed to last year's terror attacks in Paris, Brussels and the California city of San Bernardino, as well as anti-Muslim rhetoric during the US presidential campaign.

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump has called for a ban on Muslims entering the United States and for a national registry of Muslims in the country.

Ricci said he has noticed a spike in anti-Muslim sentiment that has spread fear among the community that numbers about half a million in Southern California.

"In the United States today there is a certain toxicity toward Muslims being generated by a certain presidential candidate," Ricci said, referring to Trump.

"And that toxicity is finding comfort with people who have ignorance of Islam and Muslims." — AFP

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San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

## Adelanto indoor marijuana farm found

*By Beatriz Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun*

Wednesday, October 26, 2016



ADELANTO >> Sheriff's deputies and Adelanto city authorities Tuesday afternoon shut down a clandestine indoor marijuana farm, the second such illegal operation found to be operating in the city in the last four months, officials said.

Around 4 p.m., officers from Adelanto's Department of Community Safety and deputies from the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department served a search warrant at a large warehouse at 10150

Apache Road after they received a tip about the illegal business.

Officers found several hundred plants along with various equipment used in the process of growing the plants, according to a city statement. No one was at the location at the time the search warrant was served, and no arrests were made.

Authorities also reportedly found evidence of hazardous electrical and plumbing work as well as illegal water runoff.

A second building on the property was searched, but nothing was found.

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URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/general-news/20161026/adelanto-indoor-marijuana-farm-found>

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## What Chino Hills deputies did to help the infant daughter of slain Palm Springs police officer

*By Beatriz Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun*

Tuesday, October 25, 2016



CHINO HILLS >> San Bernardino County Sheriff's deputies based out of Chino Hills collected dozens of boxes of diapers for the infant daughter of [slain Palm Springs police officer Lesley Zerebny](#) earlier this month.

Soon after the [fatal shooting of Zerebny](#), who'd recently returned work after taking maternity leave, and Sgt. Jose "Gil" Vega on Oct. 8, Chino Hills station-based San Bernardino County Sheriff's Deputy Robert Hoag managed to accumulate a large amount of baby accessories, approximately \$500 in cash and a donation from Kimberly Clark, a papermill out of Fullerton, of a pallet of Huggies in various sizes, Sgt. Randy Naquin said in an email. The items were

donated to the family through the sheriff's department,

"The idea to do something helpful came from humanity and compassion," Naquin wrote Tuesday. "Deputies are not robotic protectors; they are mothers, fathers, sisters, and brothers who can personally and emotionally relate to a woman being cut down by violence in the prime of her life, leaving behind a child and husband."

Zerebny and Vega's deaths allegedly at the hands of [26-year-old John Hernandez Felix](#), sent shock waves through the law enforcement community, which was still reeling from the loss of [Sgt. Steven Owen](#) only days earlier in Lancaster.

However, Naquin said, the motivation to raise funds and gather donations for the young officer's family goes beyond wanting to help a fellow officer.

"(The deputies) didn't do this just because it's another law enforcement officer. They did this because they have hearts for people," Naquin said. "That's why they chose a profession that causes them to put their lives on the line every day for perfect strangers."

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## Special delivery brings smiles to Loma Linda hospital's youngest patients

*By Beatriz Valenzuela, San Bernardino Sun*

Tuesday, October 25, 2016



LOMA LINDA >> Little Jayce Sorto-Foranda excitedly looked up as four law enforcement helicopters flew over Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, the place he's called home for nearly a month.

The 2-year-old Perris boy, his mother and his nurse sat in front of the hospital steps late Tuesday morning and watched each massive helicopter deftly land on the campus lawn.

Then the blare of dozens of police motorcycles, SWAT vehicles and BearCat sirens could be heard as the vehicles streamed onto the hospital's lawn.

The arrival of the police and sheriff's vehicles highlighted the 17th annual Cops for Kids Fly-In, which delivers toys to patients at the children's hospital.

Still hooked up to medical monitors and intravenous fluids and medications, Jayce's serious look immediately transformed into a large toothy grin when his grandmother, Maya Sorto, pulled out her cellphone for a picture of the small boy sitting in the cockpit of the Ontario Police Department's helicopter.

"This is so wonderful," said Jayce's mother, Jasmine Sorto. "This is his first time outside since he's been here. He was even excited to go into the elevator."

For children like Jayce, the Fly-In is a time when they can interact with police and sheriff's officers from agencies throughout Southern California, including Los Angeles, Redlands, Riverside and Ontario police, California Highway Patrol and San Bernardino and Riverside sheriff's departments, as well as a welcome break from the daily reminders of being sick and in the hospital.

"It lets us breathe fresh air," said 6-year-old Chasity Martinez. The Perris girl has received cancer treatment at the hospital three separate times since her diagnosis last year.

Chasity's mother said she was grateful to the law enforcement agencies and the hospital staff for putting on the event.

"It's wonderful for these kids to see this and to experience these things when they are going through rough times," Natalie Ramirez said.

One by one, the children began to file into the police vehicles and were given toys and stickers by the officers.

"It was a great day," said Paul Shaffer, part of the Ontario flight crew, who participated in the Fly-In for the first time.

The Fly-In began in 1999, when Megan Colley, who was then 9, was receiving treatment at the hospital and wanted to help some of the other children in the oncology ward, said Don Miskulin, a retired Riverside police



pilot who helped establish the annual event.

Colley, now 27 and getting ready to marry her fiance, was on hand Tuesday to watch as nearly 100 officers, deputies and Marines met with more than 700 children.

Patients too sick to go outside and watch the helicopters land were given a special visit.

The San Bernardino County sheriff's tactical robot buzzed and clanked down the oncology ward, gift in mechanical hand, ready to deliver it to eager children.

One young girl, paper mask over her mouth, happily took her Disney princess gift from the robot and hopped away calling for her mommy to see what she had received.

“A lot of times as an officer, you get called out when bad things happen,” San Bernardino police Sgt. Jeff Harvey said after handing Chasity a pink shoulder patch. “Doing something like this makes you feel good and really puts things into perspective. It’s a great thing to be a part of.”

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URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/social-affairs/20161025/special-delivery-brings-smiles-to-loma-linda-hospitals-youngest-patients>

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## District Attorney's office kicks off national #WhyIAmAProsecutor campaign

DA | Posted: Tuesday, October 25, 2016 2:37 pm

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. - The San Bernardino County District Attorney's Office kicked off the national "Why I Am A Prosecutor" campaign today.

The campaign, which is supported by National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), is designed to highlight the ethics, integrity and commitment of prosecutors across the nation.

"This video campaign is another way for us to connect with our community, the people we represent in court," said San Bernardino County District Attorney Mike Ramos, who is also the current president of NDAA. "Every day I come to work and I am fortunate to be surrounded by hardworking, dedicated public servants who fight for victims and ultimately do their best to achieve justice in every case. I want our community to know what I know, to see it for themselves as much as they can through the videos. We, too, are members of this community and we care about each and every victim. We care about public safety, and we care about doing our jobs in a manner that is ethical and respectful of every person who enters the courtroom or comes into contact with our office."

The first video in the ongoing series was released today-using the hashtag #WhyIAmAProsecutor-on the following social media channels:

YouTube:

[www.youtube.com/sbcountyda](http://www.youtube.com/sbcountyda)

Twitter:

[www.twitter.com/sbcountyda](http://www.twitter.com/sbcountyda)

Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/sbcountyda](http://www.facebook.com/sbcountyda)



## Why Riverside County was dropped from Dorner reward suit

By [BILL HETHERMAN](#)

2016-10-25 15:19:19



Finding no evidence of a breach of contract or violation of civil rights, a judge dismissed all of the claims filed against several entities, including Riverside County, by a camp ranger who sought more than [\\$1 million in reward money](#) amid assertions that he alerted authorities to the whereabouts of rogue ex-LAPD Officer Christopher Dorner.

Los Angeles Superior Court Judge William Fahey granted motions by attorneys for the cities of Los Angeles and Irvine, Riverside County and the law firm of Richards, Watson & Gershon to remove them as defendants in Richard Heltebrake's lawsuit.

The rulings mean Heltebrake can only take to trial his allegations against James and Karen Reynolds, a couple who were competing claimants. He also can seek a default judgment against another claimant, Daniel McGowan.

Fahey's Oct. 13 rulings came more than a year after a three-justice panel of the 2nd District Court of Appeal unanimously reversed Judge Elizabeth Allen White's ruling dismissing all of Heltebrake's claims against the city of Los Angeles and the county of Riverside. White in August 2015 found that the claims against the city of Los Angeles and Riverside County infringed on "protected activities."

The appeals court disagreed, but upheld White's ruling dismissing the city of Riverside as a defendant. The justices also said they were not expressing their opinion on the merits of Heltebrake's claims, opening the door for the remaining defendants to file new dismissal motions.

[Dorner died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound on Feb. 12, 2013](#), while he was holed up inside a burning cabin during a shootout with San Bernardino County sheriff's deputies in the unincorporated San Bernardino Mountains community of Angelus Oaks near Big Bear.

The death of the 33-year-old Navy reserve officer ended a roughly 10-day crime spree and manhunt that had law enforcement and the public on edge.

His rampage began on Feb. 3, 2013, when he gunned down the daughter and future son-in-law of the ex-police captain who represented him at his Board of Rights hearing. The bodies of Monica Quan and her fiance, USC public safety officer Keith Lawrence, were found in Lawrence's car in the parking structure of their Irvine condominium building.

The next day, Dorner posted the 6,000-word manifesto on Facebook, promising warfare on LAPD officers and their families for what he believed was his unjustified firing.

Dorner, who lived with his mother in La Palma, was later involved in a shootout with Los Angeles police guarding an officer's home in Corona, leaving one officer with a graze wound to the head. About 20 minutes later, he fired on a pair of Riverside police officers stopped at a red light, killing Officer Michael Crain and wounding the other.

San Bernardino County sheriff's Detective Jeremiah MacKay was fatally shot during the gun battle with Dorner at the cabin.

Heltebrake's suit, filed in April 2013, maintains he is entitled to all of the more than \$1 million in multi-agency rewards because his 911 call put authorities on the trail that eventually led to Dorner.

The legal tangle over the reward was further complicated by a May 2013 decision of a panel of three retired judges appointed to make a final determination about the money. The judges found that 80 percent of the money should go to the Reynolds, who were bound and gagged by Dorner in their Big Bear cabin.

The panel also recommended that McGowan, a ski resort employee who found Dorner's burning truck, be awarded 15 percent and that a tow truck driver, R.L. McDaniel, receive 5 percent for reporting that he saw Dorner's truck in Corona earlier in the manhunt.

Heltebrake was not entitled to any of the money, according to the retired judges.

In his rulings, Fahey said he asked the attorneys during the Sept. 23 hearing on the dismissal motions whether there actually ever was any evidence that then-Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa publicly said there was a \$1 million reward for Dorner's capture.

"The parties agreed that no such evidence was before the court," Fahey wrote.

The City Council did offer a \$100,000 reward for Dorner's capture in February 2013 and the procedures for making a claim were posted on the Los Angeles Police Department's website, Fahey wrote.

"It is undisputed that plaintiff did not submit a claim in accordance with these procedures," according to Fahey.

The city of Irvine contributed \$100,000 to the reward fund, but Heltebrake did not follow the steps for presenting a claim even though Mayor Steven Choi sent a letter to the plaintiff's attorney explaining the process, Fahey wrote.

The Riverside County Board of Supervisors heard Heltebrake's reward request, but declined to give him any reward money, basing its decision in part on the recommendations of the three-judge reward panel, Fahey said.

"This court has concluded that there was nothing illegal or constitutional about the formation of the three-judge panel or as to their procedures and recommendations," Fahey wrote.

Richards, Watson & Gershon agreed to hold the reward monies in escrow and then distribute them as directed, but did not contribute any funds or create the reward process, Fahey said.



## The Deception of Density

If we think carefully about the flaws in measuring how dense a place is, we can better articulate what we actually value about urbanism.

GARRETT NELSON | [@en\\_dash](#) | 8:00 AM ET | [Comments](#)



Nam Y. Huh/AP

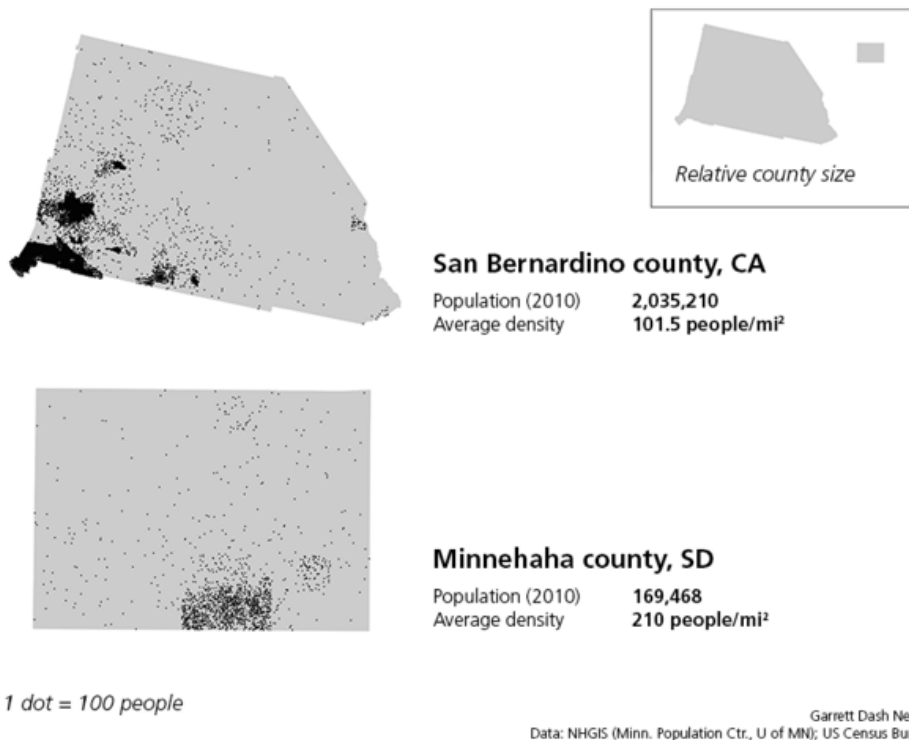
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One thing that many planners, economists, and urban reformers agree on these days is that density is a good thing. But there's something deeply deceptive about density: Far from being a straightforward statistical measurement, it's actually difficult to define and easy to manipulate. Thinking carefully about the flaws inherent in measuring density can encourage us to better articulate what it is about density that we actually value—and to emphasize those outcomes, rather than raw density itself, as objectives of foresighted urban design.

The problem with density as a statistical measurement arises from the fact that we have to make a choice about what geographic unit to use as the

denominator in the formula of people divided by area which gives us density. That choice can lead to some strange flukes. If we measure the density of two people sleeping in a 40-square-foot tent in the wilderness of Alaska at the resolution of one tent unit, we get a density of 1.4 million people per square mile, or about 20 times the [density of Manhattan](#). Meanwhile, the most recent census found [25 people living in New York City's Central Park](#), giving the park a density of just under 19 people per square mile, slightly more rural than [Idaho](#).



Geographers call this statistical quirk the [modifiable unit area problem](#), and it can cause all sorts of trouble. For instance, counties are a commonly-used geographic unit for demographic analysis in the United States. But counties differ considerably in their shapes and sizes. San Bernardino County, California, is physically larger than the four smallest U.S. states combined, and it includes a large swath of the Mojave Desert. Consequently, San Bernardino's average density—100 people per square mile—is less than half that of Minnehaha County, South Dakota. But the vast majority of people in San Bernardino County are clustered in the county's southwestern corner, in what is essentially an extension of the Los Angeles megacity. By contrast, Minnehaha County, though it hosts Sioux City, the largest urban center in the nation's fifth least-dense state, also contains [1,000 farms averaging 353 acres each](#). Is it correct to say that San Bernardino County's residents go about their daily lives in a world that feels, on average, half as dense as the lives of an average Minnehahan? Probably not: The Census Bureau includes most of San Bernardino's population inside Los Angeles's "combined statistical area," which is home to 18 million people, while the largest statistical area around Sioux Falls contains only 230,000.

There are some clever ways to get around the modifiable areal unit problem. For instance, measuring [a cross-section of density at different distances from](#)

[City Hall](#) gives a better picture of how population masses radiate out from urban nodes. Geographers have some [more sophisticated measurements](#) which can identify how strongly the choice of unit areas is distorting a spatial statistic. But for discussions of urban density, the solution isn't necessarily found in tweaking our math. Instead, we should be thinking about what it is about density we like: Rather than relying on measurements that simply take generic human dots and divide them by generic geographic areas, we should try to study the ways in which life is actually lived.

One reason to like density is that, at least in theory, it reduces commuting distance and time, which not only cuts down on carbon emissions but probably [makes people happier](#), too. However, the relationship between density and commute times is [far from a strict correlation](#). A dense city with all of its jobs in one congested central business district will likely experience much more painful commutes than a less-dense city where jobs and residences are evenly stirred together. Critics of the bloated metropolitan areas of the 1920s complained about the enormous time and effort spent carting people "[from places they would rather not live to places they would rather not work and back again](#)," as described in a 1925 *Survey Graphic* article by the economist Stuart Chase. They realized that the length, difficulty, and expense of commuting patterns are the major factor in determining whether or not urban life is pleasant and convenient—not how jam-packed together everyone might be on average.

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## Neighborliness is a virtue which grows from something more than tight quarters.

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Here, a better statistic than raw density would be a measurement which considers the average time and distance which is required for an individual to encompass a zone suitable for the purposes of everyday life. What we care about most in community planning is that people can get to the places they use regularly—their workplace, school, childcare, grocery store, café, and so on—in a convenient, affordable, and energy-efficient manner. Instead of averaging out raw densities across enormous areas, like the nearly 5,000 square miles that constitute the Los Angeles metropolitan statistical area, we should pay attention to the finer-grained geographies of human scale.

For instance, I recently moved to Lebanon, New Hampshire—population 13,000 at the last census—which, measured at the scale of its "micropolitan statistical area," is very thinly spread. But because I live in the dead center of the city, I'm within a 500-foot radius of the post office, the library, a grocery store, a few restaurants, a park, the farmer's market, and the bus stop that takes me to my office. In terms of a functional, lived experience, my everyday urban geography is considerably "denser" than many of my friends who live in Chicago or San Francisco.

But it isn't just convenience and transportation efficiency that draws so many of today's urbanists to prize density. They point to the ways that density nurtures both [innovation](#) and [social diversity](#) to argue that there are fundamental "[agglomeration effects](#)" which result from gathering people and businesses together in close proximity. There's certainly something to this: the geographer Waldo Tobler's famous "[first law of geography](#)" states that "near things are more related to distant things," and we are undoubtedly more likely to participate in both acts of social solidarity and economic interchange with people who are close at hand than with those who are far distant.

But it's naïve to assume that all people have equal access to one another just because they happen to be bumping shoulders—a fantasy bred in the cozy atmosphere of elite college campuses and well-decorated coffeehouses. In reality, our social and economic interactions are highly stratified by barriers like race, gender, education, and class. An undocumented Latina immigrant might clean houses or bus tables in the same gentrifying neighborhood where an Ivy League-educated programmer has rented an expensive apartment, but that hardly means that the two will miraculously found a business or develop an art project together. In fact, as common goods like public transit systems give way to individualized services like Uber, it becomes even easier to construct parallel, insulated worlds that share spatial proximity but little else. Neighborliness is a virtue which grows from something more than tight quarters: It requires institutions, policies, and resources that actively work to promote equality, interaction, and meaningful mutual participation.

In the 1960s, the Swedish geographer-planner Torsten Hägerstrand pioneered a technique called the "[space-time cube](#)" in order to visualize how people move around cities throughout the day and come into temporary conjunctures with others in places like transit stops, workplaces, or leisure facilities. By diagramming the paths that people weave through the city, it becomes possible to distinguish between a vibrant form of density, which features many sites of fair, equitable human interaction, and a mere heaped-up density, which features people jostling against one another without ever producing meaningful social relationships. We can do so by paying close attention to the moments and places where spatial proximity promotes the growth of democratic ties cutting across lines of suspicion and division—for instance, in a public soccer field shared by many different kinds of people.

More intensive studies of the spatial structure of cities, like ones that scrutinize the distance and stress of individual commutes or observe how people interact with one another in public spaces, are hardly easy. They require not only dedicated researchers, but, more importantly, a careful sensitivity to the social life of urban landscapes. That's why we often rely lazily on an easy-to-compute statistic like density as a convenient shorthand for what's praiseworthy about urban life. But we should try harder to look beyond density to explain—and advocate for—what it really is about proximity and neighborliness that we really admire.



San Bernardino County Sun (<http://www.sbsun.com>)

## How local officials are elected is in historic upheaval

### **Effort winning to replace at-large elections with district votes with aim of fair representation for minority and low-income voters**

*By Chris Haire, The Orange County Register*

Tuesday, October 25, 2016



Liberal reform is under attack by a new generation of progressive activists who say choosing officials on an at-large basis — citywide or school districtwide — has served as a barrier to fair representation for minority and low-income voters.

And the activists are winning.

Next month and in 2018, dozens of Southern California agencies will hold district elections for the first time: Anaheim and Palmdale. Whittier and Upland. Redlands and San Juan Capistrano. The Glendale Unified and Fullerton Joint Union High school districts.

Seven more cities will put the question of district elections to voters next month, and a growing number of jurisdictions are facing strong legal challenges to their at-large selection of local leaders.

The lasting effects of the shift may take decades to play out: Will local governments become fairer and more representative of Southern California's ethnic diversity? Or will more divisive, parochial politics infect city councils, school boards and other public agencies across the region?

“The next two years is when the pendulum swing will accelerate,” said Douglas Johnson, a demographics expert for the Rose Institute of State and Local Governments, a research wing of Claremont McKenna College. “But it will continue for the next 20 to 30 years.

“In some jurisdictions, district elections will be great. In others, it will be a debacle.”

Most public agencies across California, save for the likes of the Los Angeles and San Francisco city councils, have had at-large elections for generations.

Broadening the accountability of officials to all voters in a city or school district was meant to curb the influence of insider power brokers, such as the infamous William “Boss” Tweed.

The Tammany Hall power broker of 19th century New York City used coercion to get poor, often minority voters to back the candidates of his choice. The candidates, in return, owed Tweed political favors once in office.

But over the decades, Latino rights and civil liberties groups say, the at-large system marginalized minority voters, partly because of the high cost of campaigning across an entire jurisdiction versus in a single district, the gap in voter turnout among ethnic and socioeconomic groups, and how different ethnicities vote as a bloc.

That system, they say, essentially disenfranchises minority and low-income voters, who are often concentrated in specific neighborhoods and lack the political and financial capital to elect someone from their communities who would better understand their needs.

The California Voting Rights Act of 2001, signed into law in 2002, was created to address those issues.

The act allows residents to sue local governments if their election systems dilute the strength of minority voters and seek to force a change to elections in newly drawn districts, including some that have a majority or plurality of eligible minority voters.

There is a historical tendency for racial and ethnic groups to vote alike, some researchers have found.

In at-large elections, they say, that can confer advantages on candidates from some blocs, including middle-class whites, who have high voter turnout, and Asian Americans, who studies show are most likely to cast ballots for candidates from similar backgrounds, regardless of policy positions.

In Garden Grove, the population is evenly divided among whites, Asian-Americans and Latino-Americans. White and Vietnamese council members have been common in recent years, with Vietnamese-Americans currently making up a council majority. No Latino has served on the council in the city's 60-year history, according to City Clerk Kathy Bailor.

In November, the City Council will expand to seven seats, with six districts and a mayor elected citywide. Several Latinos have a shot at winning council seats.

"No one was really speaking for us," said Rickk Montoya, a council candidate for Garden Grove's District 6 and the plaintiff in a 2015 lawsuit that forced his city to change to district elections. "Hopefully it will get people involved. They'll say, 'Hey, my representative lives right next door,' and know they can knock on his door."

Latino activists and private attorneys have used the state Voting Rights Act to force cities and school districts across the region and throughout the state to adopt by-district voting.

"It's about valid, local representation," said Zeke Hernandez, president of the Santa Ana chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens, one of the nonprofits that advocate for district elections. "Whoever gets elected has to be responsive to the needs of their districts."

The downside, opponents say, is the threat of Balkanization, with officials prioritizing their districts over the interests of the city or school district as a whole.

They also argue that forcing cities and school districts to move to district elections overlooks differences among communities, reduces voters' control over all their representatives and depletes public coffers as some private lawyers pushing the changes move city to city collecting millions in fees through settlement agreements or court victories. (In January, a new state law will limit a public agency's liability in voting rights lawsuits to \$30,000.)

"Local communities should be able to decide for themselves," said Chris Freeland, the city manager of West Covina, where voters rejected a ballot initiative to switch to districts in 2009 but which now faces a lawsuit that could force a court-ordered change.

"Districts may work in some larger cities, but not in smaller cities like ours," Freeland said. "Instead of voting every two years for multiple seats, voters will only be able to vote every four years for one seat."

The shift to districts started slowly.

At first, Latino and voting rights organizations focused on a few smaller school districts and cities in the Central Valley and the Bay Area because they lacked the money to fund lengthy trials, said Art Montez, Hernandez' colleague at the League of United Latin American Citizens.

"We had to pick our spots," Montez said. "There was no precedent yet."

Then came Modesto and Palmdale.

Modesto residents sued in 2004, saying Latinos, a majority of the population, were shut out of the political system there because of at-large voting.

Modesto lost repeatedly in court, with appellate courts saying the law was constitutional. The city settled the case in 2008 after the Supreme Court declined to hear its appeal and city voters approved district elections.

Four years later, Palmdale faced a similar legal challenge. The city agreed to settle in 2015, though voters never approved a change to district elections.

The legal challenges cost the cities more than \$3 million each and set precedents that made it harder for other agencies to defend their at-large elections.

Since 2015, activists and private lawyers have won settlements or judgments in case after case in Southern California, including in larger suburbs such as Buena Park and Upland.

“In some areas, it may be necessary, because you don’t want to disenfranchise voters,” said Fred Thompson, a councilman in Palmdale. “I just thought, ‘Why do we need this here?’ ”

Thompson is Palmdale’s first African-American council member, elected in 2013 as its lawsuit raged on. At first, he condemned the switch to district elections, releasing a statement in 2015 saying his election victory proves the suit was “both unnecessary and disingenuous.”

But his view of the issue has changed.

“What you’ll see is a more diverse council and a trickle up to higher offices,” said Thompson, running in his first district election. “I would advise other cities to settle and settle quickly, especially to avoid the cost.”

Whether voters believe district elections will lead to fairer representation is a matter of perspective.

For those who want more minorities on councils and school boards, voting by districts seems to be working: More Latinos and other minorities have been elected where the change has been made. And this year, cities such as Anaheim and Palmdale also have more Latinos on the ballot.

But there is also fear that district elections could set officials against one another in competition for limited financial resources.

“We’ve already gotten some people in the community saying, ‘Oh, look, a Spanish speaker on the council. He would listen to me,’ ” said Nancy Mendez, the assistant city manager for Whittier, which held its first district election in April and elected a Latino man.

But, Mendez said, as a “bureaucrat,” she has worried about district elections: “I didn’t want Balkanization.”

Added Montoya, the Garden Grove candidate who sued the city: “That’s my biggest fear now” as district elections are beginning, he said.

It’s hard to say when or if Mendez’s and Montoya’s fears will be assuaged.

But proponents and opponents agree on one thing: The move to district elections will continue across the state and likely expand to more obscure local agencies such as water districts.

“It isn’t slowing down,” said Johnson, of the Rose Institute.

## District elections

A running list of Southern California cities that have faced challenges as a result of the state’s Voting Rights Act and where they stand:

Moved to district elections in recent years: Compton, Escondido, Whittier

Holding first by-district elections in November: Anaheim, Banning, Buena Park, Chino, Chula Vista, Eastvale, Garden Grove, Hemet, Highland, Palmdale, San Juan Capistrano, Upland, Wildomar, Yucaipa

Voters deciding on district elections in November: Bellflower, Corona, Costa Mesa, El Cajon, Fullerton, Placentia, Rancho Cucamonga

Holding first district elections in 2017 or 2018: San Marcos, La Mirada, Chino Hills, Redlands, Hesperia

At-large elections being challenged: Apple Valley, Cathedral City, Glendale, Santa Clarita, Santa Monica, Victorville, San Clemente, West Covina

Source: Rose Institute of State and Local Government, Claremont McKenna College

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URL: <http://www.sbsun.com/government-and-politics/20161025/how-local-officials-are-elected-is-in-historic-upheaval>

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# Fighter pilot survives landing mishap at Marine base in Southern California desert

By **Matt Hamilton**

OCTOBER 25, 2016, 10:30 PM

# A

n F/A-18 fighter jet had a landing mishap Tuesday evening at a military base in Southern California's high desert, forcing the pilot to eject from the aircraft.

The pilot, stationed to a Marine Corps aviation group in South Carolina, was hospitalized with minor injuries, according to 1st Lt. John Roberts, a spokesman for the Marine Corps.

ADVERTISING

What precipitated the emergency escape is under investigation.

The incident was initially reported as a jet crash about 6 p.m. at the Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center in Twentynine Palms, about 140 miles east of Los Angeles, according to a spokeswoman for the San Bernardino County Fire Department.

Roberts said a preliminary report indicated the jet had touched down, but for an unknown reason, the pilot needed to bail out of the aircraft.

The pilot's identity was not released but he is with Marine Aircraft Group 31 at the Marine Corps air base in Beaufort, S.C. The purpose of the flight in Southern California was not disclosed.

The sprawling base in the middle of the Mojave Desert is used to train Marines and sailors in realistic settings for forward deployments.

An F/A-18C crashed July 27 during a training mission near the Twentynine Palms Marine base, killing Maj. Richard Norton, 36, of Arcadia.

Norton, a fighter pilot who joined the Marines in 2005, had been stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

[matt.hamilton@latimes.com](mailto:matt.hamilton@latimes.com)

Twitter: [@MattHjourno](https://twitter.com/MattHjourno).

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#### UPDATES:

10:30 p.m.: This article was updated with comments from Lt. John Roberts.

This article was originally published at 9:25 p.m.

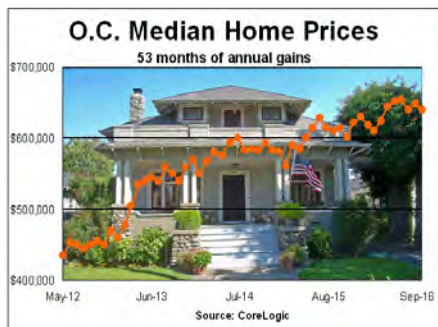
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# ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

## CoreLogic: O.C. home prices up 4.1% in September

[JEFF COLLINS](#)

2016-10-25 22:37:14



Orange County home prices continued to push higher from year-ago levels amid steady sales as the housing market entered its fifth year of a recovery that has yet to run out of steam.

Real estate data firm CoreLogic reported Wednesday the median price of an Orange County home – or price at the midpoint of all sales – was \$640,000 in September. While that's down from the 2016 peak of \$655,000 reached in June, home prices were up 4.1 percent from a year ago.

Sales leveled off last month, with 3,192 homes changing hands in September, CoreLogic reported. That's just one transaction shy of the

total posted in September 2015.

But for a 23 percent year-over-year jump in new home sales, September transactions would have been down. Sales of existing single-family homes fell 2.6 percent last month, while existing condo transactions dipped 1.9 percent.

September marked the 53rd consecutive month of year-over-year price gains.

Meanwhile, home prices were up throughout the six-county Southern California region.

The median Southern California home price was \$460,000 in September, up 5.7 percent from year-ago levels. Sales totaled 20,927 homes, down 0.8 percent.

San Bernardino County had the biggest percentage gain in its median home price, rising 11.1 percent to a \$298,250, CoreLogic reported. Los Angeles County's median home price rose 7.3 percent to \$526,000, while Riverside County's median was up 6.2 percent to \$334,500.

San Bernardino County and San Diego County were the only local counties with year-over-year sales gains, with transactions up 1.9 percent and 4.2 percent respectively.

Contact the writer: 714-796-7734 or [jcollins@ocregister.com](mailto:jcollins@ocregister.com)

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## How homeowners who lost everything persevered after Esperanza fire

By [ALEX GROVES](#)

2016-10-25 20:19:20



Lori Cornell, 63, and her husband Harvey Marcell, 68, spend their days enjoying their home in the Twin Pines area of the San Jacinto Mountains, tending to their businesses and taking care of their pet horses and donkeys.

Their life now is a sharp contrast to 10 years ago, when another home they had in the same area and almost all their belongings were obliterated by the Esperanza fire.

The fire not only took five firefighters' lives, but it destroyed 34 homes as well. The road back from losing everything was difficult for many of those homeowners, who may have new homes and possessions, but can't

forget those stressful times.

For Donna Raymond, it's important to keep things in perspective. While losing items that she'd wanted to pass down in her family was tough, it could have been worse. She said she frequently thinks of the firefighters and their families.

"We just lost things," she said. "You can replace things, you can't replace people."

### BURNED TO ASHES

Cornell and Marcell remember the initial confusion the fire brought. It began shortly after 1 a.m. Oct. 26, 2006, and soon their electricity and telephone were out. As the flames made their way toward the couple's home, they started to evacuate.

Though they were able to get their horses and donkeys out, they left behind most of what they had inside the home.

"We came back a few hours later and the house was gone," Marcell said.

Cornell said nearly everything had been destroyed – family photos, important keepsakes, jewelry and horse equipment had been reduced to ashes among the charred, twisted rubble of what was once their home.

After the blaze, people they knew wanted to help, giving them things to start anew. While it was appreciated, Cornell said, it was also a reminder of how much they had lost.

"An interesting thing is that everybody gives you things, from clothing, toiletries, furniture, decorations, and usually if you're a sentimental-type person, you know everything in your house – where it came from and the story behind it – and I looked around ... It was almost like living in a hotel."

After staying with Marcell's son for about a year, the couple used insurance money to purchase a home that Cornell, a real estate agent, had listed.



“I’m not real interested in staying there after two fires,” Cornell said recently with a laugh, “(Harvey) wants to live at the ranch so I sort of stick around, but if I had the opportunity, I’d probably grab it.”

Their new home not only has a barn and space for their animals, but it also is filled with new keepsakes and memories.

“It’s not there because someone gave it to you. It’s there because you chose to put it in,” said Cornell.

## THE KINDNESS OF OTHERS

Raymond, 61, said it took about a year for her and her husband, Bob, to get back on track after the fire destroyed their home.

They, too, lost important family belongings and were unsure what the future would hold.

Luckily, she said, their insurance was helpful. They were able to stay in a rental home in Beaumont while they sold their mountain property and bought a new home.

The rental home was completely furnished, and the owner even kept his landscaper on, Raymond said.

“Everyone was just so gracious and kind to us,” she recalled.

When people found out Raymond collected tea sets, cups and saucers – and that those items had been destroyed in the fire – they began to donate their own tea sets to her.

“I have more cups and saucers and sugar and cream holders than I have ever have,” she said.

By November 2007, the Raymonds moved into a new home of their own, also in Beaumont. They stayed there for about eight years before fulfilling their dream of living in the mountains again – this time in Murphy, North Carolina.

As she talked about her new home, Raymond said she thinks everything worked out OK in spite of the difficult circumstances of a decade ago.

“Now the leaves are turning,” she said. “All these beautiful leaves and seasons here. It was kind of a blessing in disguise.”

Contact the writer: 951-368-9693 or [agroves@scng.com](mailto:agroves@scng.com)



## How a community healed together from Esperanza fire tragedy

By [ALI TADAYON](#) and [MARK MUCKENFUSS](#)

2016-10-25 19:29:28



In the 10 years since the Esperanza fire claimed five firefighters' lives, 40,000 acres and 34 houses in the San Jacinto Mountains, area residents and firefighters have relied on each other to overcome the tragedy.

From Day 1, the community stepped up to help fill both practical and emotional needs. That has continued through the years, and while the pain remains, firefighters and mountain residents alike say the intertwined communities have become more close-knit.

"If you could say that anything good came out of it afterward, it was that the whole town came together," said Idyllwild resident Rick Holmes.

No public memorials are planned today, but Cal Fire will observe a moment of silence at 7:57 a.m., the time of the horrific burnover that killed the firefighters. And the U.S. Forest Service and firefighters' families, as they do almost every year, will gather at the site to mourn in a private event.

The fire is likely to be on the minds of many mountain residents as well. At the Mountain Communities Fire Safe Council, director Pat Boss said the community can't forget what happened in 2006.

"It's always on everybody's minds," Boss said, "every time you see a Forest Service engine go through. It never goes away."

Just hours into the Oct. 26, 2006 Esperanza fire – which was started by an arsonist in the hills above Cabazon – it turned into an inferno that burned over the crew of U.S. Forest Service Engine 57: Capt. Mark Loutzenhiser of Idyllwild, Jess McLean of Whitewater, Jason McKay of Phelan, Pablo Cerda of Fountain Valley and Daniel Hoover-Najera of San Jacinto.

In the immediate aftermath of the deaths, firefighting agencies from across the region reached out to help, said San Bernardino National Forest Service spokesman John Miller, who held the same position at the time of the fire.

"Everybody rallied around us," Miller said. "When Esperanza happened, the first person I spoke to was Pat Dennen, who was the fire chief for San Bernardino County Fire Department. ... "Pat said, 'John if there's anything you need, just let me know,' and we had the same reaction from all the fire agencies. People came together and said, 'What do you need?'"

Miller said firefighters from other agencies came and staffed local Forest Service stations while firefighters attended the funerals.

### TOWN COMES TOGETHER

The community's solidarity became clear to Holmes when Idyllwild residents helped build a new house for the family Loutzenhiser left behind: wife Maria and five children. He had started building an addition to their two-bedroom, one-bathroom cabin before he died.

The outpouring of generosity was so much that the home was torn down and one almost twice its size was built through donations and volunteer labor.

"There were a lot of people who pitched in to help the widow and her family," Holmes said.

Chris Fogle, a battalion chief at the Alandale fire station where Engine 57 was based, was one of Loutzenhiser's best friends and remains close with his widow, Maria.

As Loutzenhiser's family has recovered, Fogle said, so has the community.

"Mark was well known," he said. "To lose him, and the other four guys as well, was pretty impactful for the entire town. I don't think they're ever far off of our minds."

## MURALS AND MEMORIES

Before he died, Loutzenhiser had asked another employee at the Alandale station to paint a nature scene in the office. He wanted to bring the serene surroundings of the San Bernardino National Forest indoors.

The station stayed closed for about seven months after the fire. When it reopened, only one of its previous employees remained: fire prevention technician Susie Carlson, the painter. But initially, she couldn't bring herself to finish the project.

The three-wall mural has now been finished, and portrays deer, birds and other animals in a grassy meadow.

Inside the station's garage is another painting of the classic wildfire-prevention mascot Smokey Bear holding his hat at his heart below five white doves. The caption reads: "In memory of our fallen heroes E57 firefighters."

San Bernardino National Forest officials would not allow the Alandale station's current staff to comment for this story.

## 'SAFETY FIRST'

Holmes said the fire prompted residents to look out for each other when wildfires occur. Several large fires have ravaged the San Jacinto Mountains since the Esperanza fire.

A disabled 86-year-old woman lives near Holmes. He said he has coordinated with her in the past and made plans in case they need to evacuate.

"Everybody has each other's backs," he said.

Dolma Rollins, who lives in Pine Cove, said the fire prompted her to have an evacuation plan ready for her family and their animals. Strong winds during the Esperanza fire caused flames to sweep up the mountainsides and behave erratically.

Former firefighter Larry Donahoo, who owns Village Hardware in Idyllwild, keeps a photograph of the Engine 57 crew over the desk in his office. Donahoo, who retired from firefighting in 2010, said he knew Loutzenhiser well.

Despite a decade of distance, Donahoo said the Esperanza tragedy crosses his mind frequently during fire season and he reminds the firefighters to be careful.

"It's safety first," he said. "Whenever I see a firefighter during fire season, I just tell them stay safe."

## FIREFIGHTERS NOT FORGOTTEN

Miller said members of the Inland firefighting community continue to mourn the loss of their colleagues.

"Everybody copes differently, and some people can deal with these things better than others," Miller said.

After the fire, the Forest Service established a program called "You Will Not Stand Alone," which links a group of trained counselors with firefighters coping with loss.

For many firefighters, the fate of Engine 57 remains in the back of their minds when they respond to a fire, Miller said.

“For some people, not a day goes by that they don’t think about it,” Miller said. “When you look at the crew, they were highly trained and overrun by fire. You know its not something that you expect. No one wakes up in the morning thinking ‘I’m going to go to work today and not come home.’”

Contact the writer: 951-368-9284, [atadayon@scng.com](mailto:atadayon@scng.com), @PE\_alitadayon

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# Lawyers allege poor conditions at Northern California jail after a spate of suicide attempts

By **Associated Press**

OCTOBER 26, 2016, 4:00 AM | REPORTING FROM MARYSVILLE, CALIF.

**L**awyers representing inmates at a Northern California county jail say at least 41 suicide attempts in the last 2 ½ years are one sign of continued dangerous conditions nearly 40 years after officials promised improvements.

The attorneys for inmates at Yuba County Jail in Marysville have asked a federal judge to enforce a nearly 40-year-old court order, citing what they say are deteriorating conditions that have led to dozens of suicide attempts.

The jail is again rife with constitutional violations that have resulted in poor treatment of physically and mentally ill inmates, the attorneys said in a federal court filing Monday.

Sheriff's Department spokeswoman Leslie Carbah said she couldn't comment on the pending legal action. She referred questions to the county counsel's office, which did not respond to telephone messages.

The lawyers allege that mentally ill inmates are often isolated in windowless cells for weeks at a time or housed in "rubber rooms" filthy with blood and feces at the jail about 40 miles north of Sacramento.

Many of the prisoners are awaiting trial and have been convicted of no crime, according to the filing by attorneys with the UC Davis School of Law and the San Francisco firm of Rosen Bien Galvan & Grunfeld.

The court motion says about half the jail's 426 beds are filled by immigration detainees under a contract with the U.S. government.

A separate complaint by the San Francisco firm targeting poor conditions in state prisons helped force changes that include a 5-year-old law that sends lower-level felons to county jails.

County sheriffs frequently complain that they are poorly prepared to deal with serious, long-term offenders who they say often have mental health issues.

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[San Diego judge gives Mexican cocaine kingpin a 15-year prison term](#)

[Tour bus in crash that killed 13 did not comply with safety standards, officials say](#)

The San Gabriel Valley Tribune (<http://www.sgvtribune.com>)

## LA County approves plan to build ambitious Puente Hills Landfill Park

*By Steve Scauzillo, San Gabriel Valley Tribune*

Tuesday, October 25, 2016



Three years after the nation's largest landfill closed, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday voted to approve the final environmental report for the future Puente Hills Landfill Park near the juncture of the 605 and 60 freeways north of Hacienda Heights.

By a 5-0 vote, the Supervisors voted to accept the final Environmental Impact Report and the master plan for the park, which would replace the old landfill with trails and other amenities such as a giant slide, a gondola ride taking visitors to the top and back, an amphitheater, [a zip line, stair climbs and a bicycle skills course.](#)

Of the 600 acres where trash was dumped and layered with dirt, plus the landfill slopes and flat landfill caps, only about 117 acres of top deck fill area would be available for the formation of the new park.

An additional 25 acres of non-fill areas are also included in the plan for development, equaling a total 142 acres. Of that total, the western deck of the closed landfill, about 13 acres, is ready for development. The southern and easterly decks are expected to settle up to 125 feet more in the next 25 to 30 years.

The movement of the earth makes it impossible to build structures. Also, ball fields are not acceptable because they need watering, and no watering is allowed because that could create waste-tainted leachate that would seep into the water table.

The first phase of the project will cost about \$45.9 million and may be completed by 2021. About \$35 million will be paid for by special funds set aside by the Los Angeles County Sanitation Districts, according to the master plan. Preliminary costs for Phase 1B is \$21.5 million; phase II will be \$69 million; phase III will cost \$33 million. The combined cost of all the phases is \$168.9 million.

The Puente Hills Landfill operated for 56 years, accepting household waste from all over the county until Oct. 31, 2013. Since then, waste goes to the landfills in Orange and San Bernardino counties and to the Puente Hills Material Recovery Facility located in the shadow of the 40-story high rubbish site.

The plan calls for an entry plaza and a 7,000 square-foot visitors center that will take park visitors via a shuttle bus or gondola to the top of the site. Plans call for 14 miles of multi-use trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding. Also planned are picnic areas and play areas for children.

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URL: <http://www.sgvtribune.com/government-and-politics/20161025/la-county-approves-plan-to-build-ambitious-puente-hills-landfill-park>

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# McStay Family Slayings Arise in AT&T For-Profit Spying Revelations

BY MATT COKER

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2016 AT 6:33 A.M.

## MISSING CHILDREN

### Endangered Missing

**GIANNI GIUSEPPE  
MARTELLI MCSTAY**



Age: 4 DOB: 07/09/2005  
Sex: Male  
Race: White  
Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown  
Height: 3'0"  
Weight: 40 lbs

**JOSEPH MATEO  
MARTELLI MCSTAY JR**



Age: 3 DOB: 01/31/2007  
Sex: Male  
Race: White  
Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown  
Height: 2'6"  
Weight: 35 lbs

**SUMMER MCSTAY**



Age: 43 DOB: 12/27/1966  
Sex: Female  
Race: White  
Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown  
Height: 5'5"  
Weight: 115 lbs  
companion

**JOSEPH MCSTAY**



Age: 40 DOB: 11/20/1969  
Sex: Male  
Race: White  
Hair: Brown Eyes: Brown  
Height: 5'9"  
Weight: 175 lbs  
companion

*Handout*

A connection between AT&T's massive—and for-profit—secret spying program and the beating deaths of a San Clemente businessman and his family?

Welcome to the brave new world.

The Daily Beast's Kenneth Lipp was among those who reported Tuesday that Project Hemisphere, a secretive program run by AT&T that searches trillions of call records and analyzes cellular data, has been used for more than just helping the government stop narcotics trafficking, as had been previously disclosed.

Lipp writes that newly released documents reveal that Project Hemisphere has also been used to track welfare fraud, murder suspects and whatever else requested of government agencies that pay AT&T for the data.

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To illustrate this, the Daily Beaster points to the November 2014 arrest of Charles Ray “Chase” Merritt, a Homeland ironworker suspected of killing Joseph McStay, 40, Summer McStay, 43, and their sons Gianni, 4, and Joseph Jr., 3.







Charles Ray "Chase" Merritt

*San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department*

The last day the family was seen was on Feb. 4, 2010, when Joseph McStay met in Rancho Cucamonga with Merritt, who was a subcontractor for McStay's fountain design business.

After three years of searching, San Diego County sheriff's investigators concluded the McStays voluntarily left their home in Fallbrook, where they had recently moved after residing for years in Orange County, to live in Mexico.

A year after that, the remains of the McStay family were found buried in the San Bernardino County desert north of Victorville.

Homicide investigators quickly honed in on Merritt, because he had been the last to see Joseph McStay, who had reportedly loaned \$30,000 to Merritt to cover a gambling debt. But that along with McStay's DNA being found in Merritt's vehicle was not enough evidence for an arrest.

No, that would come after Project Hemisphere data put Merritt's mobile phone near a cellular tower and the McStay gravesite two days after the family disappeared, Lipp reports.

San Bernardino County's district attorney is seeking the death penalty for Merritt, who has pleaded not guilty to all charges against him.

Despite the comfort Merritt's arrest has brought to the friends and loved ones of the deceased, the idea that a private company like AT&T is profiting off taxpayer-funded spying on Americans is raising red flags. As Merritt writes:

*Hemisphere isn't a "partnership" but rather a product AT&T developed, marketed, and sold at a cost of millions of dollars per year to taxpayers. No warrant is required to make use of the company's massive trove of data, according to AT&T documents, only a promise from law enforcement to not disclose Hemisphere if an investigation using it becomes public.*

*These new revelations come as the company seeks to acquire Time Warner in the face of vocal opposition saying the deal would be bad for consumers. Donald Trump told supporters over the weekend he would kill the acquisition if he's elected president; Hillary Clinton has urged regulators to scrutinize the deal.*

It's one thing for a telecommunications company to be required to turn over records to the government. AT&T is profiting off of it, an ACLU analyst tells Lipp.

AT&T's spokesperson told Lipp that the company has no database tool and only provides additional employees to help speed up government requests. AT&T also released this statement:

*Like other communications companies, if a government agency seeks customer call records through a subpoena, court order or other mandatory legal process, we are required by law to provide this non-content information, such as the phone numbers and the date and time of calls.*

Critics aren't buying the explanation, saying the documents Lipp cites show AT&T is engaged in data mining for profit. Among them is Fight for the Future, a digital rights group known for its high profile campaigns for free speech and online security.

"The for-profit spying program that these documents detail is more terrifying than the illegal NSA surveillance programs that Edward Snowden exposed," says campaign director Evan Greer in a statement. "Far beyond the NSA and FBI, these tools are accessible to a wide range of law enforcement officers including local police, without a warrant, as long as they pay up. It makes me sick to my stomach thinking about it.

"Customers trusted AT&T with some of their most private information, and the company turned around and literally built a product to sell that information to as many government agencies and police departments as they could. Not only did they fail to have any safeguards to prevent unauthorized use of the data, they actually required law enforcement to keep the program secret and dig up or fabricate other evidence, to hide the fact that they'd received information from AT&T. If companies are allowed to operate in this manner without repercussions, our democracy has no future."

Fight for the Future is calling on AT&T "to immediately shut down this illegal and unethical spying program," Greer says, "and we demand that the U.S. Department of Justice launch an investigation into the use of the Hemisphere spying program, and reveal all court cases where

Hemisphere was used so that they can be reviewed."

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